

## INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES - UNESCO

2019 was declared as “International Year of Indigenous Languages” which was a major milestone in recognizing the rights of Indigenous peoples globally. Recently, International Chief Wilton Littlechild, Grand Chief of Treaty No. 6, did an intervention in Paris at the UNESCO General Assembly moving to extend the year to a decade that was not only approved but three additional years were added. The call for an extension was to continue international attention to our Indigenous languages with a Proclamation of a Decade on Indigenous Languages. The Proclamation was also adopted at the UN Third Committee in New York.

UNESCO is attempting to track/record all Indigenous Language events that took place over the course of the year. Chief Littlechild is encouraging that all events that held within Treaty No. 6, Treaty No. 7 and Treaty No. 8 be registered, especially those hosted by our Nations specific to Indigenous Languages. If your First Nation or organization held any events this year, please go online at <https://en.iyil2019.org/events> and register the event(s). There are 15 categories that people can register their event under:

- International conference of states
- International meetings
- Non-governmental organizations
- International congress
- Advisory committees
- Expert committees
- Seminars and training/courses
- Symposiums
- Concerts
- Performance/theatre
- Exhibitions
- Sports events, traditional sports and games
- Film screenings
- Online events
- Media
- Other

The Final Report on the Year of Indigenous Languages will be presented at the 2020 UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues that is held in New York City at the United Nations.

We lift up our Grand Chief, who was bestowed the title of International Chief through sacred ceremony by the Elders and Chiefs years ago for all of his work and efforts done on behalf of our Indigenous peoples at the international level; the title is well respected at the international level as is he. We are proud of all of his achievements and give thanks for continuing to advocate on our behalf.